

by the National Coordination Committee to operate in the 764–776 MHz and 794–806 MHz frequency bands must be capable of operating on any of the designated nationwide narrowband interoperability channels approved by the Commission.

**§ 90.549 Transmitter certification.**

Transmitters operated in the 764–776 MHz and 794–806 MHz frequency bands must be certificated as required by § 90.203.

**§ 90.551 Construction requirements.**

Each station authorized under this subpart to operate in the 764–776 MHz and 794–806 MHz frequency bands must be constructed and placed into operation within 12 months from the date of grant of the authorization. However, licensees may request a longer construction period, up to but not exceeding 5 years, pursuant to § 90.155(b).

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**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

**50 CFR Part 679**

[Docket No. 971208297–8054–02; I.D. 102798A]

**Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pollock in the Gulf of Alaska Statistical Area 620**

**AGENCY:** National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

**ACTION:** Modification of a closure.

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**SUMMARY:** NMFS is opening directed fishing for pollock for 72 hours in Statistical Area 620 in the Gulf of Alaska (GOA). This action is necessary to fully utilize the total allowable catch (TAC) of pollock in that area.

**DATES:** Effective 1200 hours, Alaska local time (A.L.T.), October 27, 1998, until 1200 hours, October 30, 1998.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Nick Hindman, 907–581–2062.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** NMFS manages the groundfish fishery in the GOA exclusive economic zone according to the Fishery Management Plan for Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska (FMP) prepared by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council under authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. Regulations governing fishing by U.S. vessels in accordance with the FMP appear at subpart H of 50 CFR part 600 and 50 CFR part 679.

In accordance with § 679.20(a)(5)(ii)(A), the Final 1998 Harvest Specifications for Groundfish established the allowance for the pollock TAC apportioned to Statistical Area 620 in the GOA as 50,045 metric tons (mt) (63 FR 12027, March 12, 1998). The Acting Administrator, Alaska Region, NMFS (Acting Regional Administrator), has established a directed fishing allowance of 49,945 mt, and set aside 100 mt as bycatch to support other anticipated groundfish fisheries.

The fishery for pollock in Statistical Area 620 was closed to directed fishing under § 679.20(d)(1)(iii) on October 12, 1998 (63 FR 55342, October 15, 1998), in order to reserve amounts anticipated to be needed for incidental catch in other fisheries. NMFS has determined that as of October 23, 1998, 1,867 mt remain in the directed fishing

allowance. Therefore, NMFS is terminating the previous closure and is opening directed fishing for pollock in Statistical Area 620 of the GOA effective 1200 hrs, A.L.T., October 27, 1998.

In accordance with § 679.20(d)(1)(iii), the Acting Regional Administrator finds that this directed fishing allowance will soon be reached. Therefore, NMFS is prohibiting directed fishing for pollock in Statistical Area 620 at 12 noon, A.L.T., October 30, 1998.

Maximum retainable bycatch amounts may be found in the regulations at § 679.20(e) and (f). All other closures remain in full force and effect.

**Classification**

This action responds to the best available information recently obtained from the fishery. It must be implemented immediately to provide an opportunity to harvest the directed fishing allowance for pollock in Statistical Area 620 in the GOA and to prevent overharvesting the 1998 TAC. A delay in the effective date is impracticable and contrary to the public interest. Further delay would only result in loss of fishing opportunity and potential overharvest. NMFS finds for good cause that the implementation of this action should not be delayed for 30 days. Accordingly, under 5 U.S.C. 553(d), a delay in the effective date is hereby waived.

This action is required by § 679.20 and is exempt from review under E.O. 12866.

**Authority:** 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: October 27, 1998.

**Richard W. Surdi,**

*Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.*

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